



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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NATURAL GAS RATES TO CHANGE FOR ATMOS ENERGY-- SEMO DISTRICT CUSTOMERS UNDER SCHEDULED WINTER FILING

Jefferson City (January 3, 2003)----To reflect estimated changes in the cost of natural gas for the remaining winter season, SEMO District natural gas customers of Atmos Energy Corporation will experience an increase in natural gas rates under a scheduled winter season filing reviewed and accepted by the Missouri Public Service Commission. This rate change will take effect on January 6, 2003.

A residential customer currently pays \$0.52746 per Ccf (100 cubic feet of gas). Under this filing, the rate will increase to \$0.58264 per Ccf, an increase of approximately 5.5 cents per Ccf. **The effect on a typical residential heating customer for the remaining winter season (January to March) is an increase of approximately \$34 when compared to rates currently in effect.**

Approximately 60% to 70% of a customer's natural gas bill reflects the cost of natural gas from wholesale suppliers. The wholesale cost of natural gas (the cost your local natural gas company must pay to its suppliers for natural gas) is not regulated by the Missouri Public Service Commission. The wellhead cost of natural gas is unregulated and is primarily driven by supply and demand. The Missouri Public Service Commission does have regulatory review authority to ensure that regulated gas companies make prudent decisions in securing natural gas supplies for their customers.

Atmos serves approximately 37,300 natural gas customers in its SEMO District which includes the Missouri counties of New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Cape Girardeau, Dunklin, Scott, Iron, Wayne, Stoddard and Mississippi.

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